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This is one side of the shield. Looking on the other side, we find that even fiction goes slowly. War books of the narrative kind are still in demand and to an extent, books of international history and relations. There is also a perceptible turning toward the psychical, spiritual and ethical. This is as it should be. The women of leisure are now at work. The children

are busy with the Junior Red Cross or war gardens; the young men are gone, or getting ready to go; and for those who are left the newspapers are all-absorbing and exciting. It is only as the library can enter into the war work of the community that it can justify its right to existence in war time.

## WHAT THE STATE LIBRARY IS DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR

By J. I. WYER, JR., *Director, New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.*

Immediately after the entry of this country into the war the nation began to mobilize its resources—military, naval, industrial, agricultural, scientific, educational—and each separate profession, industry and activity, through its practitioners, began to take thought as to what specific war time service it might render.

Probably the great surprise of the war to librarians has been the amazing range of opportunity that has been offered for what we may consider real library war service. Libraries have never been formally inventoried and examined to discover their possible war time contributions to national defense. Quite aside from their functions of supplying fresh news and judgments of current events and abundant wholesome recreational reading (functions supplying an indispensable element in morale and as highly important in stress as in serener times) libraries surely have a vital part in that work of organized research which is behind Germany's scientific and industrial efficiency and which has bulked large in all President Wilson's preparedness plans. That such work must be pushed with increased vigor, and its adepts kept out of the trenches for just such service is one of the sharpest lessons which England has learned, and successful research rests as much upon adequate and well-organized book resources as upon laboratories and trained men. It did not occur, perhaps, to librarians, even in the face of the vast

mobilization of civilian effort, that there would be so considerable a part and a program for libraries and their work. I do not say this in any spirit of boasting. It is not in that spirit, despite some newspaper strictures that have been passed upon the program of this Conference, that libraries and librarians have done this work or that we have come together at this Conference to talk about it.

I observed, particularly in Miss Titcomb's remarks and in Mr. Wellman's, as well as in Miss Robinson's, the note of humility that was struck, and it is in that same strain that I wish to speak of what the State Library at Albany has done. I cannot believe that its work is greatly different from that of any other state library. Beyond its more usual functions, which must be intensified and accelerated in time of great need, there is an exceptional service bearing full upon the immediate work of training an army, which the State Library offers to the military authorities of state and nation. Every man in the new army must have at least some months of training. Special schools and training must be provided for officers in every branch of the service and even for different duties in the same branch. Dozens of different specialized schools exist in France for the air and artillery services alone. Military training camps these must be, of course, but they must be more—schools and colleges in the

real sense of the terms, equipped with laboratories, lecture halls, and libraries, and back of these general camps hundreds of special schools for the training of officers and specialists in the learned branches of the profession of war.

The plain and immediate duty of the State Library, situated at the military headquarters of each state, would seem to be to build up its present small collection of military books into a military library adequate to be a center of military information for the state and to serve effectively the needs of research workers studying new methods and instruments for attack and defense.

It should actively disseminate to the hundreds of schools and libraries throughout the state, with which it is in official relation, information and expert opinion essential to the comprehension of military facts and policies and to the maintenance of the morale of the nation.

It should provide military and technical books, as required, to any school or college giving "officers' training" work. Its medical library should acquire promptly all new and important material on military hygiene, medicine, sanitation and surgery and should give the widest publicity to the availability of this material to all military, medical and hospital corps. The following items describing some specific lines of service by the New York State Library are noted without any logical arrangement but merely as they happen to be jotted down:

A military information service was organized as soon as this country came into the war, sorting out from our shelves the relatively few volumes that seemed to promise a live and active service at the present time, getting as soon as possible those other hundreds or thousands of volumes that bore more immediately upon present problems and the actual questions of war. These were put into a special collection. We accumulated such pamphlets as we could, subscribed for duplicate magazines and periodicals and either clipped them or circulated them as single numbers. This material was made available not only in the city of Albany but throughout the state in connection with our regular lending

service. At the request of the Resource Mobilization Bureau, a rather high sounding name for what in most states is called the State Council of Defense, the State Library prepared a pamphlet on America's part in the war, of which several thousand were printed. The same bureau also called for the compilation of a book about the American flag for use in quantities throughout the state. It was compiled but has not yet been published.

The draft boards came to us, at first tentatively and later with more assurance, for help in organizing their records, to enable them at once to make reference to the names that were filed with each board alphabetically by the name of the soldier, by the registration numeral, by his serial number, and under some other numerical arrangement peculiar to their own records.

A federal bureau of the National Draft Office is located at Albany and handles the work for the entire state. Its records and correspondence soon outgrew its own facilities for taking care of it and the State Library was called into conference; a system was suggested, a course of reading and study mapped out for the people in charge of the system, the books, literature and catalogs of filing system and those that make them were distributed to them and they have come to look to us, I fancy, for such help as may be necessary in keeping pace with their growth of correspondence from three letters a day in the first week to something like a thousand letters a week at the present time.

We organized the collection of local history material on the war for the State Library throughout the state by designating in each county one library to be a center for that work. In a circular letter to the 600 registered libraries of the state were described the kinds of material they were asked to collect, pictorial, literary, manuscript, the ephemeral and the more permanent. Those letters were sent out so that each one of the 600 libraries should know which was the central collecting agency in its own county, the exact kind of material wanted, the form in which it was desired to have it, the greater plan of which it was to form a part, and the times and seasons at which we wished to have the material sent in to Albany. The State Council of Defense formed a useful publicity agent in every county, ably reinforcing our own plans and our own efforts, for if librarians have learned anything through all this year of war work it is that they are a weak and feeble folk unless they realize and use to the full the

efforts of every other class of citizens and of every other agency, most of them lying at hand and much neglected in every enterprise in which we have been engaged.

The State Library photostat has been freely and fully at the service of all state departments having to do with war work and has been much used for a surprising variety of work, much of it of exceptional urgency, frequently calling for evening and Sunday work.

In the matter of camp libraries, before the A. L. A. had its work organized there were three reserve officer training camps in New York State. There were large camps in one or two other cities of the state. There were smaller posts here and there. The State Library in one case furnished a librarian for three months; in all cases furnished some books and acted as adviser when it was necessary (and it seldom was necessary) in stimulating local libraries to action in connection with near-by posts that called for some similar service. Thousands of books were used in that way. We duplicated freely when it was necessary and furnished personal service from the State Library whenever it seemed to promise usefulness, even, as indicated, to the extent of sending a man for three months to the Plattsburg Camp.

This leads naturally into the larger war service of the A. L. A. We have felt in that regard that almost any member of the staff that promised any usefulness in such work within our State or in camps where any New York men were to be found, was properly subject to draft. Our reference librarian has been librarian at Camp Upton ever since the camp opened. The first camp librarian at Spartanburg, where the New York National Guard men went first, was one of our own staff.

So four or five members of the staff have been absent in various lines of camp library work, among them Miss Caroline Webster for three months in Washington organizing the hospital work for the library war service there. No demand upon us is too heavy for compliance in this regard if it is at all possible to let some lines of work go, to cut out others. We instituted a rather rigid inquiry of our routine and our regular working methods to discover if there were not portions of it that could be cut out entirely, if there were not other

portions that could be indefinitely postponed, and we have freed some additional service for more important uses in that way.

The Federal Government has called upon the State Library, and my associate, Mr. Walter, spent several weeks in midwinter in one of the Government offices, organizing a card and a filing system.

In connection with the draft boards of Albany, our law library was taken for the legal advisory work of the city and our law librarian acted as the secretary for the legal advisory board of that district. Sessions were held in the law library and in the legislative reference library. The law librarian is still chairman of the board and he has assumed the task of reviewing the claims of registrants for the entire state, some ten thousand or more of these claims having been handled by the board of which our librarian is the secretary. At the request of the Adjutant's office he notifies delinquents of their status.

The State Library acted as state headquarters in the A. L. A. financial campaign, in both book drives, and like other state agencies has distributed the books upon orders from Washington. It initiated the local Albany campaign for money in the Fall, with the active coöperation and aid of the local public libraries.

The United States Food Administration has an office in the State Library, a very busy office, an office whose work surprises me more and more every time I go into it. I am confronted there with what looks like a shipping room, an apparatus temporarily constructed, with great heaps of the pamphlets and posters issued by the United States Food Administration, stacks of round mailing tubes, great piles of envelopes addressed by the addressograph and ready to go out and people busily employed in filling them up. Our Mr. Wynkoop is library publicity director for the Federal Food Administration. If every state is being taken care of with the literature of that central office of Mr. Hoover's as well as New York State is, I can scarcely under-

stand why we should not be able to save food enough to feed the whole world.

In none of the above have I taken account of the many ways in which the daily work of the library, its regular routine, has been colored by war work; the difficult matter of book selection, of subscription to new periodicals, the distressing complications that have arisen by the failure to receive books and periodicals, especially from abroad, the trouble in financial records that has been brought about, the difficulty and efforts required to get books of any sort from abroad. Especially has war work

colored reference work in all sections of the library.

At the beginning I alluded to the amazing number of opportunities that have opened for library work in connection with the war. It was a new thought that books and their custodians could be mobilized for military service. I know of no better statement of this anywhere in print than that prepared by Mr. Wynkoop as program or syllabus for the conduct of the thirty state library institutes and printed in the May number of *New York Libraries*.

### WHAT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IS DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR

By J. C. M. HANSON, *Associate Director, University of Chicago Libraries*

For the winning of a war there are said to be three essential and preëminent requisites: Man-power, money, morale.

As to the first, the average American university library cannot boast of any appreciable surplus. The University of Chicago Library may or may not represent the average in this respect. It had, on our entrance into the war, 81 women assistants and 24 men, and of the latter number only eight of military age. The result is that the library can present only five names of assistants actually in military service.

As for the second requisite, money, perhaps the less said the better. With seventy out of one hundred assistants receiving salaries running from \$30 to \$75 a month one cannot expect to make a showing comparable to that of the great business corporations or other institutions with vast financial resources. Still the eagerness to give and the willingness to sacrifice is there in full measure, and the saying credited to the Apostle Peter, "Gold and silver have I none, but what I have give I Thee," may well apply to many of our library assistants during the last year. Subscriptions to the Red Cross, the various ambulances, particularly the University and the Henry E. Legler ambulances,

the three Liberty Loans, thrift stamps, and various charitable enterprises have been participated in by all. I know of no exceptions.

There remains the third element, morale, and here is where the University Library may, in common with other libraries and similar institutions, claim recognition.

It has been said that morale is likely to prove the deciding factor in the present war, also that the farther from home the scene of conflict, the more difficult for the soldier to keep up a firm spirit for the work in hand. It was, no doubt, with this in mind, and fully aware of the powerful influence exercised by the printed book for instruction, entertainment, and in general for the moral uplift of the soldier that the American Library Association inaugurated its plan for providing camp libraries.

In the first confusion, due to a depleted force, without a corresponding diminution in pressure for service, assistants in the university library were a little puzzled as to just how and where to offer their services. A wish had been expressed by librarians of the central west that the University of Chicago undertake, as a special function, the collecting of books and ma-